

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The claims are 1-30. Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. In particular, claims 1 and 24 have each been amended to recite "*wherein said first chain carrier, said second chain carrier, said first tool chain and said second tool chain are disposed in the drawing plane*". Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 24 may be found, *inter alia*, in the specification as filed at page 14, lines 26-28 and drawing FIGS. 3 and 4. Claim 1 has also been amended to delete drawing reference numerals appearing in the claim. No new matter has been introduced.

Dependent claims 7-23 and 25-27 have been amended to delete drawing reference numerals appearing in the respective claims. Dependent claims 2-6 and 28-30 are as previously presented.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication at page 3 of the April 22, 2008 Final Office Action that the objection to the drawings has been withdrawn.

Applicant also wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview with the undersigned which was conducted on May 22, 2008. The substance of the May 22, 2008 telephone interview is set forth herein.

In the April 22, 2008 Final Office Actions, claims 1-10, 13, 14, 16-18, 21 and 24-30 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,761,003 to *Sieurin*. Claims 11, 12, 19, 20, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sieurin* in view of US Patent No. 3,144,949 to *Haugwitz*. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sieurin* in view of US Patent No. 4,360,054 to *Perrella*. Essentially, the Examiner's position is that *Sieurin* discloses a drawing machine and method substantially as claimed with the exception of a force splitter and at least one cross tie which is said to be shown by *Haugwitz* and a hydraulic cylinder which is said to be shown by *Perrella*.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As set forth in independent claim 1 as amended, Applicant's invention provides a drawing machine with a caterpillar conveyor for drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die. The caterpillar conveyor includes a first chain carrier and a second chain carrier.

A first tool chain and second tool chain form a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move. The first chain carrier, the second chain carrier, the first tool chain and the second tool chain are disposed in the drawing plane.

At least one of the chain carriers is displaceable in a frame which absorbs press-on forces between the tool chains. A first frame half is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half is disposed on a second side of the drawing plane. The first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in a region opposing the press-on forces.

As set forth in independent claim 24 as amended, applicant's invention further provides a method of drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die, wherein the workpiece to be drawn is conveyed by means of a first and a second tool chain of a caterpillar conveyor. The first tool chain is held by a first chain carrier and the second tool chain is held by a second chain carrier. At least one of the chain carriers is displaceable for applying press-on forces.

The first and second tool chains form a drawing plane in which the workpiece is moved. The first chain carrier, the second chain carrier, the first tool chain and the second tool

chain are disposed in the drawing plane and the press-on forces are applied in the drawing plane.

At least one of the chain carriers is displaceable in a frame absorbing the press-on forces between the tool chains. The frame includes a first frame half disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half disposed on a second side of the drawing plane. The first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces.

In particular, Applicant's amended claim 1 recites a drawing machine having the following features:

a first tool chain and a second tool chain forming a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move, wherein the first chain carrier, the second chain carrier, the first tool chain and the second tool chain are disposed in the drawing plane ...

wherein a first frame half is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half on a second side of the drawing plane, and the first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces.

Similarly, Applicant's claim 24 as amended recites a method of drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die, wherein

said first and said second tool chain forming a drawing plane in which the workpiece is moved, wherein said first chain carrier, said second chain carrier, said first tool chain and said second tool chain are disposed in the drawing plane ...

said frame comprising a first frame half disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half disposed on a second side of the drawing plane, wherein the first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces.

The Examiner's position as set forth at pages 2-3 of the Final Office Action appears to be that FIG. 3 of the *Sieurin* reference, U.S. Patent No. 3,761,003 shows a first frame half disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half disposed on a second side of the drawing plane, wherein the first frame half and second frame half are configured to be symmetrical, as recited in the pending claims. In particular, in response to the arguments presented in Applicant's December 19, 2007 Amendment, the Examiner has contended that the previously filed amendment fails to consider FIG. 3 of the *Sieurin* reference, which in the Examiner's view shows first and second sides on the opposite sides of the material being conveyed.

As set forth in Applicant's Amendment filed on December 19, 2007 and discussed during the telephone interview on May 22, 2008, it is respectfully submitted that *Sieurin* fails to teach or

suggest a drawing machine or method for drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die wherein a first tool chain and a second tool chain form a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move; wherein a first frame half is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half is disposed on a second side of the drawing plane; and wherein the first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 24.

In particular, as shown in FIG. 4 of *Sieurin*, reproduced below, the drawing plane into which the workpiece is caused to move in the *Sieurin* apparatus extends into the page and perpendicular with sprocket shafts 32a and 42a. Accordingly, first frame half (18a) and second frame half (18b) of the *Sieurin* apparatus are not disposed on respective first and second sides of a drawing plane formed by first tool chain (48b) and second tool chain (48a) as recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 24. Rather, first frame half (18a) and second frame half (18b) are disposed on the same side of the drawing plane.

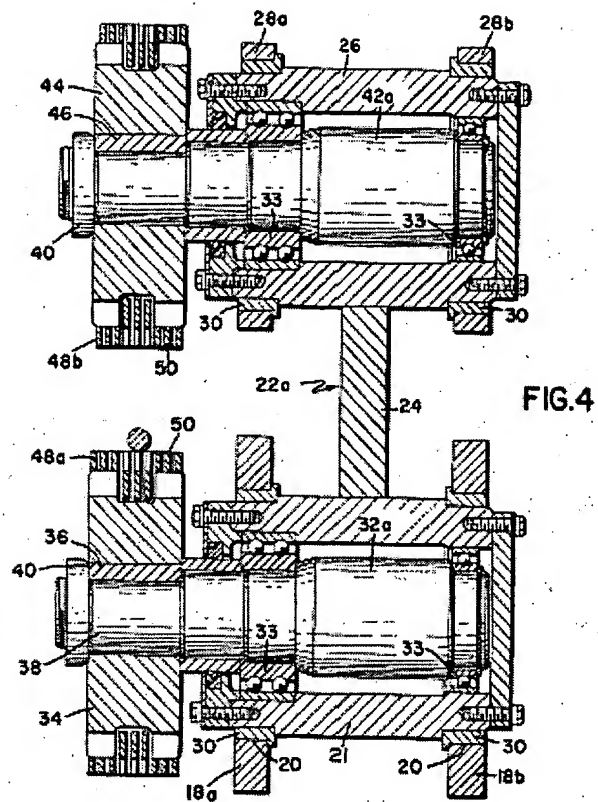
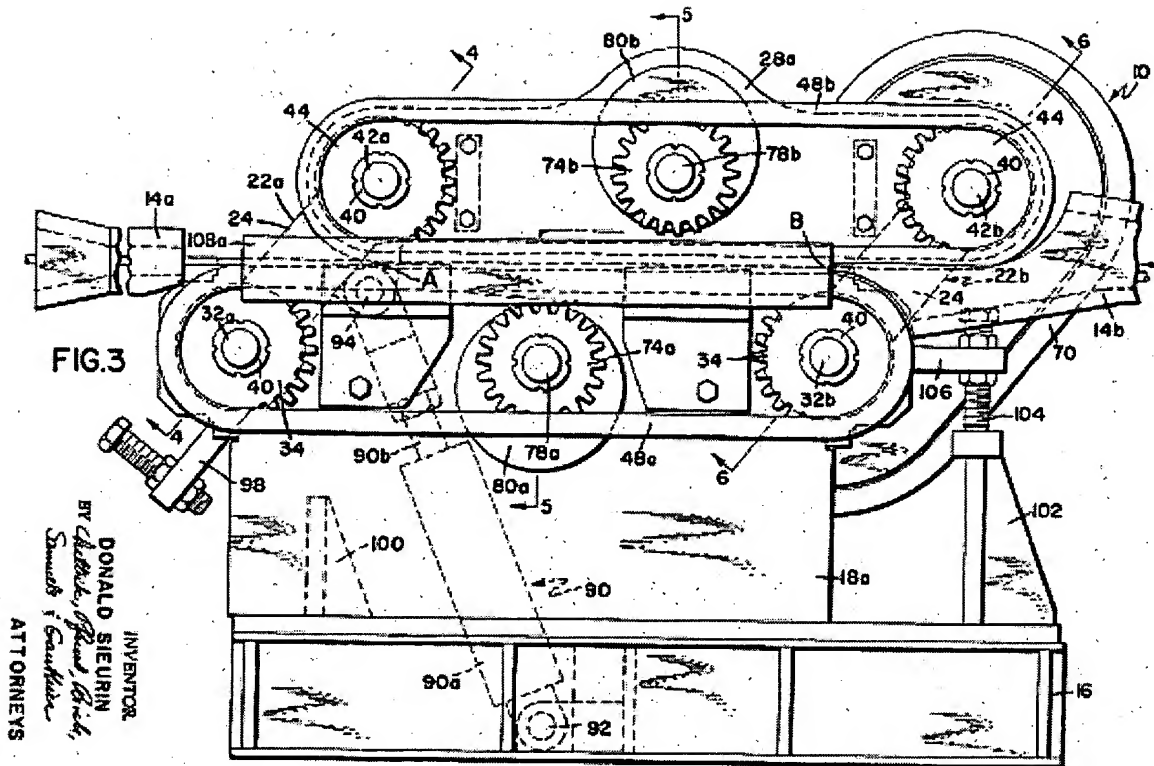


FIG. 3 of *Sieurin*, reproduced below shows a side elevational view of the apparatus of which a section along line 4-4 is shown in FIG. 4.



As Applicant noted during the May 22, 2008 telephone interview, in FIG. 3 of the *Sieurin* reference, the drawing plane as recited in claims 1 and 24 would be the plane of the page. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's position, the components in *Sieurin* which the Examiner asserts are first (18a, 18b) and second (28a, 28b) frame halves are located on the same side of the drawing plane and not on respective first and second sides of a drawing plane formed by a first tool chain and a second tool chain as recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 24. In other words, the support members 18a, 18b and links 28a, 28b of *Sieurin* are on

the same side of the drawing plane as the drawing plane is recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 24.

Accordingly, FIG. 3 of the *Sieurin* reference, as well as the remainder of the reference, fails to show a first frame half on one side of the drawing plane and a second frame half on a second side of the drawing frame, wherein the two frame halves are symmetrical to each other as claimed.

During the May 22, 2008 telephone interview, the Examiner expressed the position that, in his view, the drawing plane as recited in Applicant's claims could refer to any plane in which the workpiece is caused to be moved. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's position and in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 24 to more clearly define the invention and in particular the arrangement of Applicant's drawing plane. Claims 1 and 24 as amended each recite "*wherein said first chain carrier, said second chain carrier, said first tool chain and said second tool chain are disposed in the drawing plane*".

The secondary references to *Haugwitz* and *Perrella* fail to remedy the deficiencies and of *Sieurin*. In particular, neither of the secondary references teach or suggest a drawing machine or method for drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die wherein (1) a first tool chain and a second tool chain form a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move; (2) a first and second chain carrier and a first and second tool chain are disposed in the drawing plane; (3) a first frame half is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half is disposed on a second side of the drawing plane; and (4) the first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 24.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 24 are allowable over the cited references, either alone or in combination. Moreover, claims 2-23, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, and claims 25-30, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 24, are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth for independent claims 1 and 24.

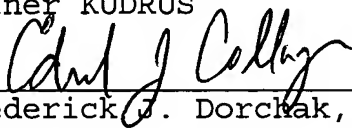
In summary, independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 7-23 and 25-27 have been amended to delete

drawing reference numerals appearing in the respective claims.
No new matter has been introduced.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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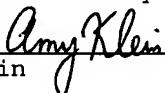
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